



Youth Opportunities PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Missouri Department of
Economic Development



Youth Opportunities PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to Sections 135.460, 620.1100, and 620.1103, RSMo., the Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. During the 2025 cycle, the Department of Economic Development allocated a total of \$5,850,772 in YOP tax credits to 37 youth organizations across the state. Contributions to these organizations will fund programming for 36 youth service projects and construction at one facility. The 2025 project list is enclosed.

YOP projects approved in 2025 have the potential to generate more than \$11.7 million in contributions, leveraging at least \$85 million in private-sector dollars.

Since its inception in 1997, YOP has facilitated more than \$242 million in contributions for projects serving Missouri's most at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with nonprofit organizations to fund programs for disadvantaged youth, teaming up to leverage private dollars instead of relying solely on public/government funding. These programs help youth break down barriers to a healthy, successful

life and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP acts as an incentive to provide this specialized programming for youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

YOP has established program outcomes to measure and verify the program's impact throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

1. Increase the number of at-risk youths that receive a high school diploma.
2. Increase the number of at-risk youths that receive a high school equivalency.
3. Increase the number of at-risk youths that remain in school, improve grades, and/or earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.
4. Reduce the number of at-risk youths committing crimes and violent acts.
5. Increase the number of at-risk youths that have completed an employment skills education and workforce development program.

Table 1.1 shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from allocations made in the most recent three calendar years. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they contributed plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization

	CY2023	CY2024	CY2025
Credits Authorized to Date ¹	\$5,999,139	\$6,000,000	\$5,850,772
Credits Issued to Date ²	\$3,292,665	\$766,118	\$617,955
Credits Redeemed to Date ³	\$78,959	\$500	\$12,500

1. Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 1/12/2026.

2. Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 1/12/2026 for the projects approved in each calendar year.

3. Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 1/12/2026 for contributions made to projects approved in each year.

For projects approved in the calendar year, YOP reports on the anticipated number of youth achieving positive outcomes in the categories identified below.

Table 1.2: Expected Outcomes for Youth

Outcome	Number of youth
Earning a High School Diploma or Equivalency	16,773
Earning School Credits, Improving Academically, or Increasing GPA	6,283
Not Committing Crimes or Completing Violence Prevention Courses	2,448
Decrease the Number of At-Risk Female Teens that Become Pregnant	1,840
Learning Employment Skills and/or Placed in a Job or Internship	1,120
Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as counseling, crisis intervention and emergency shelter, post-secondary knowledge and preparation, case management, etc.)	127,966

Missouri nonprofit organizations are successfully implementing approved YOP projects to help at-risk youth become productive adults. Lyrik's Institution and Flance Management are two such organizations successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donors, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth. The following summaries demonstrate how these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.



Lyrik's Institution

WHO THEY ARE

Lyrik's Institution is a nonprofit in Kansas City serving at-risk youth, redefining how KC responds to community violence, poverty, and limited opportunity. Through its trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and cognitive behavioral programming, the organization empowers youth and families to reframe their thinking, strengthen decision-making, and build sustainable futures. Lyrik's Institution works in close collaboration with courts, law enforcement, schools, and community partners to align prevention, intervention, and workforce pathways that create long-term impact. Every contact, every participant, and every case represent a city being rebuilt through empathy, structure, and opportunity.

WHAT THEY DO AND WHO THEY SERVE

The youth programs, serving ages 13-21, include Power Moves, IBUILD, Summer in the City, Cultural Interventions, and School Wide Interventions. These creative arts education and workforce development programs positively transform the life

trajectories of youth at-risk for criminal and violent lifestyles.

To date, Lyrik's Institution has connected with 1,250 youth and families through community outreach, engagement, and direct enrollment. This impact includes individuals reached through school partnerships, public engagement, and neighborhood outreach efforts that build trust and open pathways into deeper support. Of those reached, 116 youth and young adults formally enrolled in Lyrik's programs, participating in mentorship, workforce development, and cognitive behavioral sessions designed to promote measurable growth. In addition, 89 high-risk youth and families received intensive case management through referrals from Family Courts, law enforcement, and partner agencies. These cases involved weeks and often months of consistent, hands-on engagement and wraparound support. While the organization's reach is broad, its focus is intentionally deep, prioritizing sustained investment in individuals facing the most significant barriers to stability and success.



A SECOND CHANCE WITH LIRIK'S INSTITUTION

RATINO LITTLEJOHN'S JOURNEY

Ratino LittleJohn was referred to Lyrik's Institution through a partner organization working directly with individuals involved in gun violence. Skeptical at first, Ratino gradually engaged with the program and began applying its cognitive behavioral framework. During a period of incarceration, he continued discussing the lessons learned at Lyrik's Institution with peers, sparking conversations about accountability, decision-making, and change. Upon release, Ratino returned to the program immediately and recommitted to his growth. He successfully completed probation requirements, earned 60 hours of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) training, and became a certified CVI practitioner and Culture Coach. Through Lyrik's partnerships, Ratino secured employment with Mattie Rhodes Center as a street outreach worker, where he now intervenes directly with individuals involved in violence and criminal activity while earning a sustainable wage and supporting his family.



Flance Management

WHO THEY ARE

Flance Management is a diverse, intentional early childhood community center serving the greater St. Louis area's most disadvantaged youth and families. Flance's vision is to create a new paradigm in early childhood education that will serve as a model for creating systemic change for children and families. Its primary goal is to ensure that all preschool-age children served are not only academically prepared for kindergarten but are physically healthy and have the social and emotional foundation to succeed in elementary school and beyond. Flance, which opened in June 2014, is named in memory of Dr. I. Jerome Flance and his wife, Rosemary, in honor of their tireless work to improve the lives of children and families in St. Louis.

WHAT THEY DO AND WHO THEY SERVE

Flance Management provides quality early childhood education to at-risk youth through trauma-sensitive curriculum and social-emotional therapies. Flance's primary goal is to ensure that all preschool-age children served are academically prepared for kindergarten, physically healthy, and have the social and emotional foundation to succeed in elementary school and beyond. They provide health and nutrition services to children and families and assist parents by providing needed items for their children (food, toys, books, clothing) and monthly guidance and resources for parents through their Parents if Talking Can Help (PITCH) program. In addition, Flance partners with social service and health agencies to provide on-site medical, dental, vision, therapeutic screenings and treatment for children.

THE COURAGE TO CONNECT WITH FLANCE MANAGEMENT CHANCE'S STORY

Chance was a pandemic baby who spent his first four years in a bubble at home with his moms. When he arrived at Flance at age four, he was severely shy and anxious socially. His first few months were incredibly challenging. His teachers very kindly and patiently worked to earn his trust and ultimately earned his love. He went from hating school to loving school while at Flance. He's now a thriving kindergartener at a nearby city charter school.

“Far more than a daycare, far more even than a school, Flance is an ecosystem of support. To step into Flance is to step into the beating heart of a community and a collection of truly good-hearted people doing their best every day for all the children they can. I don't know where my family would be without Flance.”

— Chance's parent



SHELTER IN A STORM WITH FLANCE MANAGEMENT AVA'S STORY

Note: Ava's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

Ava is a former foster child who came to Flance during one of the toughest times of her life. Her mother was murdered while she was a student with us. She received free, next-day therapy and extensive ongoing supportive services

while in Flance care. Today, she's a thriving elementary school student and lives elsewhere in the country but still keeps in touch with her former foster parent and friends from Flance whenever she is in town.

“I have nothing but good feelings about Flance. Flance facilitates all of the things a family may or may not know how to do. She had great teachers. I loved the events they have for children. The culture, the international events. People with resources who want those experiences for their kids can't buy what Flance provides. I always say, Flance is a good place for families doing well, but Flance is a great place for struggling families.”

— Ava's foster parent

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CY 2025 Approved YOP Projects	Credits Authorized
Behavioral Health Response, Inc.	\$100,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Kansas City	\$199,962
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	\$159,365
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri	\$200,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks, Inc.	\$100,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis, Inc.	\$200,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County	\$200,000
Boys and Girls Club of Springfield	\$199,984
Calvary Community Outreach Network	\$27,900
Child Center-Marygrove	\$200,000
Children's Home Society of Missouri	\$200,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Southwest Missouri	\$37,500
Covenant House Missouri	\$200,000
Coyote Hill	\$172,546
Easter Seals Midwest	\$191,411
Evangelical Children's Home	\$160,000
Flance Management, Inc.	\$200,000
Girls on the Run of St. Louis	\$199,926
Good Journey Development Foundation	\$50,031
GRO Health Center	\$59,000
Hope Creates	\$68,044
Kids in the Middle, Inc.	\$200,000
Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri	\$200,000
Lyrik's Institution	\$200,000
Mental Health Association of St. Louis	\$180,319
Mission: St. Louis	\$181,435
Nurses for Newborns	\$200,000
Operation Food Search, Inc.	\$200,000
Our Little Haven	\$187,600
St. Francis Community Services	\$200,000
St. Louis Arc, Inc.	\$200,000
St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundation	\$200,000
St. Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective	\$25,000
STL Youth Jobs	\$99,996
The Foundation for Delta Educational and Economic Development	\$200,000
Unleashing Potential	\$200,000
Youth In Need	\$136,566